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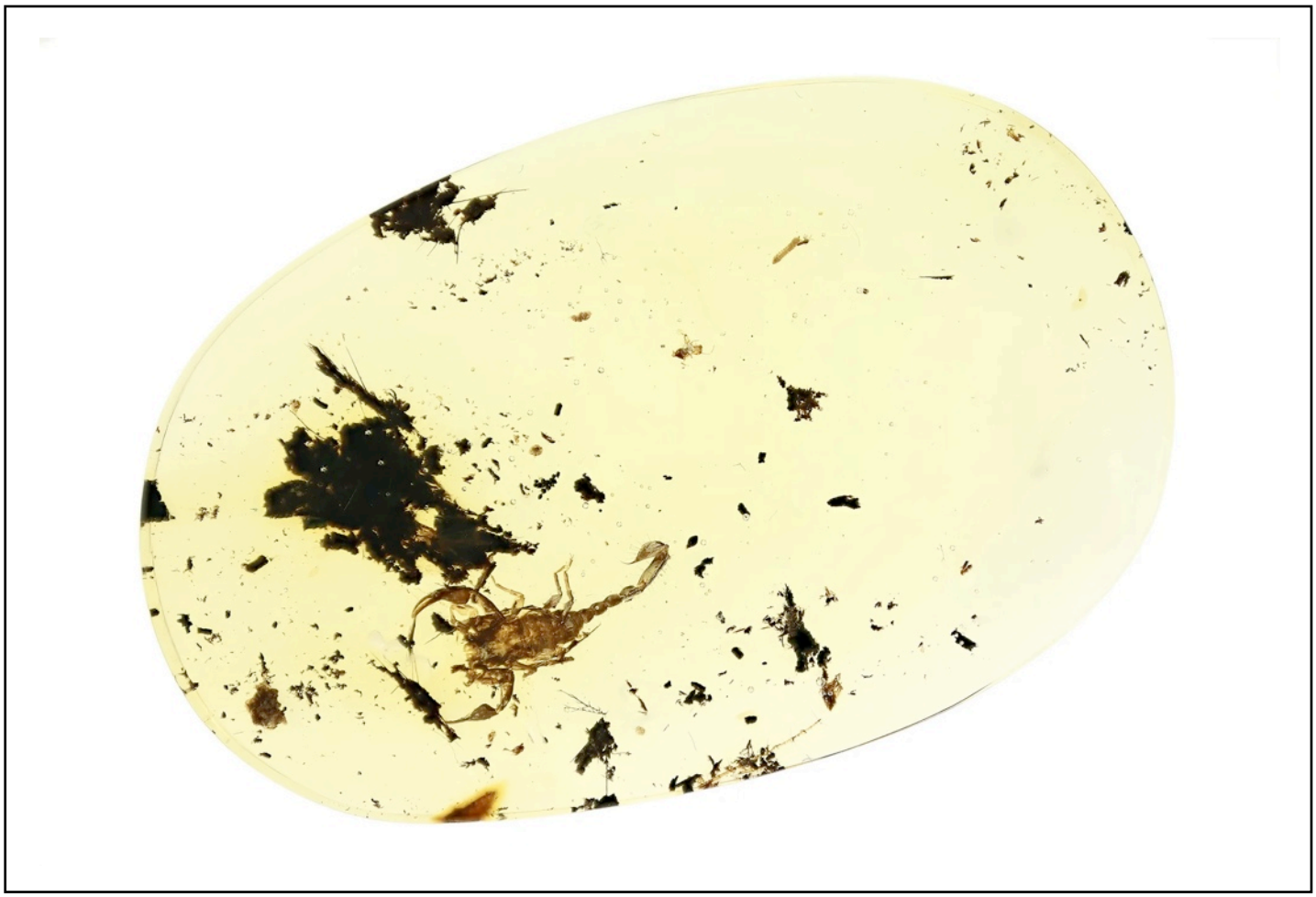

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New considerations about the outstanding variability of the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Scorpiones: Chaerilobuthidae) and the description of one more new species from Early Cretaceous Burmite

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description;
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variability;
Burmite.

Abstract. – One more new species of fossil scorpion belonging to the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 is described from Early Cretaceous Burmite. *Chaerilobuthus muelleri* Lourenço **sp**. **n**., represents the 15th species to be described for this genus confirming therefore the strong speciose characteristic of this group. The new species shows several clear morphological differences when compared to the previous known species, attesting the existence of a major variability within *Chaerilobuthus*. A list of the known species is presented, as well a number of comments on the variability of different morphological characters.

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2026. – New considerations about the outstanding variability of the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Scorpiones: Chaerilobuthidae) and the description of one more new species from Early Cretaceous Burmite. *Faunitaxys*, 14(11): 1 – 6.

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Introduction

The first description of a scorpion found in Early Cretaceous amber from Myanmar (or Burmite), was based on a very incomplete specimen, but leading to the creation of a new genus and species, *Palaeoburmesebuthus grimaldii* Lourenço, 2002 (Lourenço, 2002). Subsequently, a new family was erected to accommodate the genus *Palaeoburmesebuthus* (Lourenço, 2015). During the following years, very few scorpions found in Burmite were notified (Santiago-Blay et al., 2004), but finally a globally complete specimen was described as a new family Chaerilobuthidae, a new genus *Chaerilobuthus*, and with as type species *Chaerilobuthus complexus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Lourenço & Beigel, 2011).
In the last decade, the number of new taxa described from Burmite knew a remarkable growing (Lourenço, 2015, 2023) and the elements of the genus *Chaerilobuthus* proved to be one of the two most speciose groups found in Burmite; the second group being the genus *Betaburmesebuthus* Lourenço, 2015 of the family Palaeoburmesebuthidae (Lourenço, 2023; Lourenço & Beigel, 2015; Lourenço & Velten, 2024). The present description of a further new species of *Chaerilobuthus*, confirms the position of this genus as the most speciose group found in Burmite, with a total of 15 species. The very high degree of scorpion diversity in the Burmese amber-producing forests is, once again, confirmed (Lourenço, 2023).
One last point remains debatable: the taxonomic position of the family Chaerilobuthidae which was deeply modified by Xuan et al. (2025). In their publication the authors propose several taxonomic changes regarding the families Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 and Pseudochactidae Gromov, 1998, based, in our opinion, on alleatorious and speculative argumentations. We totally disagreed with their opinion and already exposed our arguments to reject their position in a previous paper (Lourenço & Velten, 2025). Consequently, this subject will not be further discussed here and the family Chaerilobuthidae will be considered in its original *status quo*.

Material and methods

The studied specimen is preserved in a clear oval piece of yellow amber that measures 24 x 15 mm and is about 3 mm thick. The scorpion is basically complete; however, some parts have been mummified in the resin, such as the pedipalp, preventing a good observation of all trichobothria. Contrarily, other characters are totally visible, mainly on the ventral aspect; only a few zones are disturbed by the presence of inclusions such as vegetal debris. A precise examination allows the investigation of most characters, in both dorsal and ventral aspects. The schematic drawings provided are an interpretation of what was observable. Illustrations and measurements were produced with the aid of a Wild M5 stereomicroscope equipped with a drawing tube (camera lucida) and an ocular micrometre. Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Cheliceral notations follow Vachon (1963) and trichobothrial notations are those of Vachon (1974). Other

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morphological terminologies mostly follow Hjelle (1990). Trichobothria are definitely recorded when their bothria (areoles) are clearly observed, but the presence of other trichobothria can be suggested by the observation of thin hairs. Considering the morphologies of pedipalps, pecten and telson the scorpion is most certainly a male, probably a pre-adult specimen.

Taxonomic considerations on the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011

Synopsis of the known species of the genus up to 2026

Chaerilobuthus complexus Lourenço & Beigel, 2011
Chaerilobuthus longiaculeus Lourenço, 2013
Chaerilobuthus birmanicus Lourenço 2015
Chaerilobuthus bruckschi Lourenço, 2015
Chaerilobuthus schwarzi Lourenço, 2015
Chaerilobuthus enigmaticus Lourenço, 2015
Chaerilobuthus gigantosternum Lourenço, 2016
Chaerilobuthus serratus Lourenço, 2016
Chaerilobuthus knodelorum Lourenço, 2018
Chaerilobuthus hansgeorgmuelleri Lourenço, 2019
Chaerilobuthus meggeri Lourenço, 2021
Chaerilobuthus brandti Lourenço, 2022
Chaerilobuthus staxi Lourenço, 2024
Chaerilobuthus petersi Lourenço, 2024
Chaerilobuthus muelleri Lourenço **sp**. **n**., 2026

Comments on the present knowledge of some well observed characters for the genus *Chaerilobuthus*

In account of the significant number of species of *Chaerilobuthus* described since the creation of the genus in 2011 (Lourenço & Beigel, 2011), a clear knowledge of the variation of at least some morphological characters becomes available.

Shape of the anterior margin of the carapace. – For a majority of species, the anterior margin is straight (Figs. 3-4). In a small number of species, it can be convex (Fig. 2) or concave (Figs. 1), such as for the new species described.

Median and lateral eyes. – In most cases, median eyes are absent (Fig. 1 and 5). In a small number of species these can be present but diminutive (Fig. 2-4). Lateral eyes are present in most species (Fig. 1-4), in numbers of 2 pairs or more rarely one pair. Their total absence is also observed in a few cases, as for the new species (Fig. 5). In a single species, *C. meggeri*, a macula was observed in the place of lateral eyes.

Chelicerae. – For at least some species such as *C. brandti* and the new species described here, the cheliceral dentition was well observed, showing long distal teeth which overlap for about one fourth to one half of their length; movable finger with distal internal tooth markedly longer than distal external tooth; movable finger with 3-4 teeth and possibly 3-4 teeth on fixed finger (Fig. 11).

Pectines. – For a majority of the observed species, pectines were short and bulky, with the number of teeth ranging from 4 to 6 and, in all cases the absence of fulcra (Fig. 6-8). For at least two species, *C. brandti* and *C. petersi,* this model was different with long pectines and a higher number of teeth, ranging from 7 to 11.

Shape of the telson. – For more than half of the species the telson is globular and bulk (Fig. 12). In the other species the telson can be slightly to strongly slender.

Shape of the sternum. – The globality of the species present the sternum with a pentagonal shape. However, in some species, such as the new one described here, the sternum can be particularly wide (Fig. 6-8).

Shape of the spiracles. – In the majority of the observed species the shape of the spiracles is round. A limited number can show round to oval spiracles or oval spiracles. The new species described clearly shows oval to slightly slit-like spiracles (Fig. 6-8).

Shape of pedipalp chela. – In the majority of the observed species, the shape of the chela is only slightly bulk, as for the new species (Fig. 9). In a few cases it can be strongly bulk such as for *C. knodelorum* and *C. hansgeorgmuelleri* or clearly slender as for *C. brandti* and *C. petersi*.

Trichobothrial pattern. – Despite the number of species described in the genus *Chaerilobuthus* and the fact that for some species more than one specimen was characterized, the precise numbers of trichobothria presented by the species of this genus remains imprecise. The trichobothrial pattern originally defined was an association of types A and B as defined by Vachon (1974) for respectively the Buthoids and Chaeriloids. However, the globality of the trichobothria, which most certainly is present in most species, will require yet some further studies. This question should be clarified in future observations, since more and more well-preserved specimens are becoming available.

Taxonomic treatment and systematic description of the new species

Family **Chaerilobuthidae** Lourenço & Beigel, 2011

Genus ***Chaerilobuthus*** Lourenço & Beigel, 2011

Chaerilobuthus muelleri Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

(Fig. 5, 8, 9-16)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/5633A606-B828-4178-87A0-3FACD099B1B7

Holotype. – A male, probably a pre-adult specimen.

Diagnosis for the new species. – General morphology shows similarities with other members of the genus *Chaerilobuthus*, such as the absence of median and lateral eyes and the presence of a globular telson vesicle. The following combination of characters can however, be used to diagnose the new species: Carapace markedly elongated with the anterior margin strongly emarginated, concave; median and lateral eyes absent. Pedipalp chela long and bulk; those of several other species in most cases bulk but short. Trichobothrial pattern recalling both types A and B defined by Vachon (1974), with at least 2 dorsal and 4-5 external trichobothria on femur; 2-3 dorsal, 1 internal and 4-5 ventro-external trichobothria on the patella; 2-3 dorsal, 4-5 external and 2 ventral trichobothria on chela hand; ventral trichobothria on chela hand in a very basal position, especially $\mathbf{V_2}$; 5-6 dorso-external on fixed finger. Pectines short and bulky with 5-5 teeth; sternum markedly large and pentagonal; spiracles small and oval to slightly slit-like; chelicerae with long distal teeth which overlap for about one third of their length; movable finger with distal internal tooth markedly longer than distal external tooth; movable finger with 3-4 teeth and possibly 3-4 teeth on fixed finger; the teeth of both fingers match respectively; telson's vesicle strongly globular with a moderately long and very thin aculeus which is shorter than the vesicle; presence of some latero-ventral furrows and granulations. Pedipalp chela with a strongly granular internal carina; patella and femur

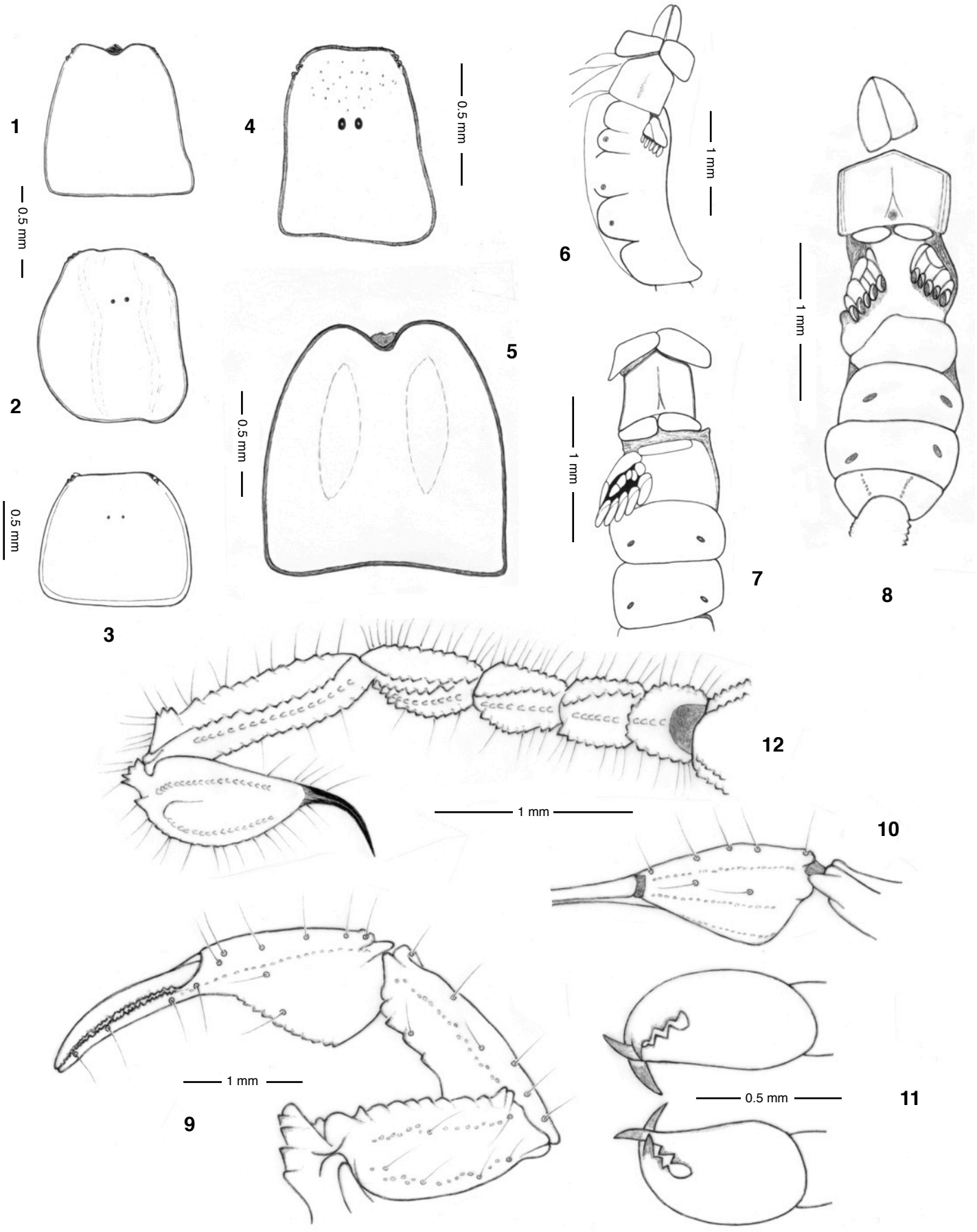

Fig. **1**-**5**. Different morphologies of carapaces. **1**. *C. schwarzi*. **2**. *C. knodelorum*. **3**. *C. hansgeorgmuelleri*. **4**. *C. staxi*. **5**. *C. muelleri* Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

Fig. **6**-**8**. Ventral aspect, showing sternum, genital operculum, pectines and sternites with spiracles. **6**. *C. gigantosternum*. **7**. *C. knodelorum*. **8**. *C. muelleri* Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

Fig. **9**-**12**. *Chaerilobuthus muelleri* Lourenço **sp**. **n**. Male holotype. **9**-**10**. Trichobothrial pattern. **9**. Femur, patella and chela, dorsal aspect. **10**. Chela, ventral aspect. **11**. Chelicerae, dorsal aspect. **12**. Metasomal segments I-V and telson, dorso-lateral aspect.

without apophysis on the internal face. Fixed and movable fingers of pedipalps slender, with the fixed finger more robust than the movable finger; cutting edges with 6-7 rows of granules separated by slightly spinoid accessory granules. Tibial spurs absent from legs III and IV; pedal spurs strong; tarsi with long and thin setae; tarsi ungues sharp but not elongated. Chetotaxy is very intense on metasoma and telson.

Type locality and horizon. – Myanmar (Burma), Kachin; precise locality remains uncertain; Lower Cretaceous.

Patronym. – The specific name honours Mr Hans Werner Müller (Idar Oberstein, Germany), for his support to the present study.

Depository. – The type specimen is deposited in the collection of Mr Hans Werner Müller (Idar Oberstein, Germany).

Description

Coloration. – The scorpion is reddish-yellow with several dark zones on body and appendages; carapace, tergites and sternites reddish-yellow; metasomal segments reddish-yellow to dark reddish; telson dark reddish; pedipalps reddish-yellow to dark reddish; legs yellow to reddish-yellow. Ventral aspect of the specimen is more to a dark yellow.

Morphology. – Carapace weakly granular to almost smooth; anterior margin markedly concave. Carinae absent and furrows moderate. Median ocular tubercle and lateral eyes absent. Sternum pentagonal and markedly large. Mesosomal tergites as carapace with some minute granulations; almost smooth; one median vestigial carina tergite VII with five weakly marked carinae; median almost absent. Pectines short and bulky, with 5-5 teeth and absence of fulcra. Sternites smooth to chagrined with oval to slightly slit-like spiracles. Metasomal segments I to IV moderately carinated; dorsal carinae are well marked with spinoid granules; segment V with two dorsal carinae slightly spinoid; ventral carinae on segments I to V weakly marked; all segments are flattened dorso-ventrally; setation on segments I to V strongly marked. Telson with a strongly globular vesicle, with some granulations and furrows ventro-laterally; aculeus shorter than vesicle and moderately curved; setation strongly marked. Cheliceral dentition with long distal teeth which overlap for about one third of their length; movable finger with distal internal tooth markedly longer than distal external tooth; movable finger with 3-4 teeth and possibly 3-4 teeth on fixed finger; the teeth of both fingers match respectively (Vachon, 1963). Pedipalps: femur with 4-5 carinae and a few small spinoid granules on internal face; patella with dorso-internal, dorso-external and ventro-external carinae observable; other carinae unclear; internal face without any small apophysis. Chela with well-marked carinae; dorso-internal with strong granules; all faces weakly granular, almost smooth. Fixed and movable fingers with 6-7 longitudinal rows of small rounded granules, respectively separated by spinoid accessory granules; extremity of fingers without any major spinoid granule. Trichobothriotaxy: trichobothrial pattern related to those of both buthoid and chaeriloids, types A and B can be observed (Vachon, 1974); see diagnosis for details. Legs tarsi with long, thin ventral setae. Pedal spurs present, sharp; tibial spurs absent; ungues moderately long.

Relationships. – The concave shape of the anterior margin of the carapace associates the new species exclusively with *C. sch*warzi and *C. petersi*. Nevertheless, *C. schwarzi* has two lateral eyes which are absent in the new species. Pectines in the new species are small, bulk and show 5-5 teeth, a similar number to the one presented by *C. schwarzi*. Contrarily, *C. petersi* shows long pectines with 10-11 teeth. Spiracles in the new species are oval to slightly slit-like. Other species with oval spiracles are *C. complexus*, *C. knodelorum*, *C. brandti* and *C. petersi*; while the other known species present round spiracles. These last four species differ, however from the new species by the shape of the anterior margin of their carapaces which are straight or even convex, the presence of lateral and/or even median eyes and longer pectines with a superior number of teeth.

Morphometric values (in mm). Male holotype of *Chaerilobuthus muelleri* Lourenço **sp. n.**

– ***Total length*** (including telson) 7.06.

– ***Carapace***
length 1.17,
anterior width 0.64,
posterior width 1.04.

– ***Mesosoma*** length 1.61

– ***Metasomal segments***
I: length 0.34, width 0.41;
II: length 0.44, width 0.37;
III: length 0.47, width 0.37;
IV: length 0.57, depth 0.31;
V: length 1.22, depth 0.27.

– ***Telson*** length 1.24.

– ***Vesicle*** depth 0.44.

– ***Pedipalp***
femur length 0.94, width 0.44;
patella length 1.27, width 0.37;
chela length 1.54, width 0.47;
movable finger length 0.87.

– **Chela length vs Chela width** = 1.54/0.47 = 3.28

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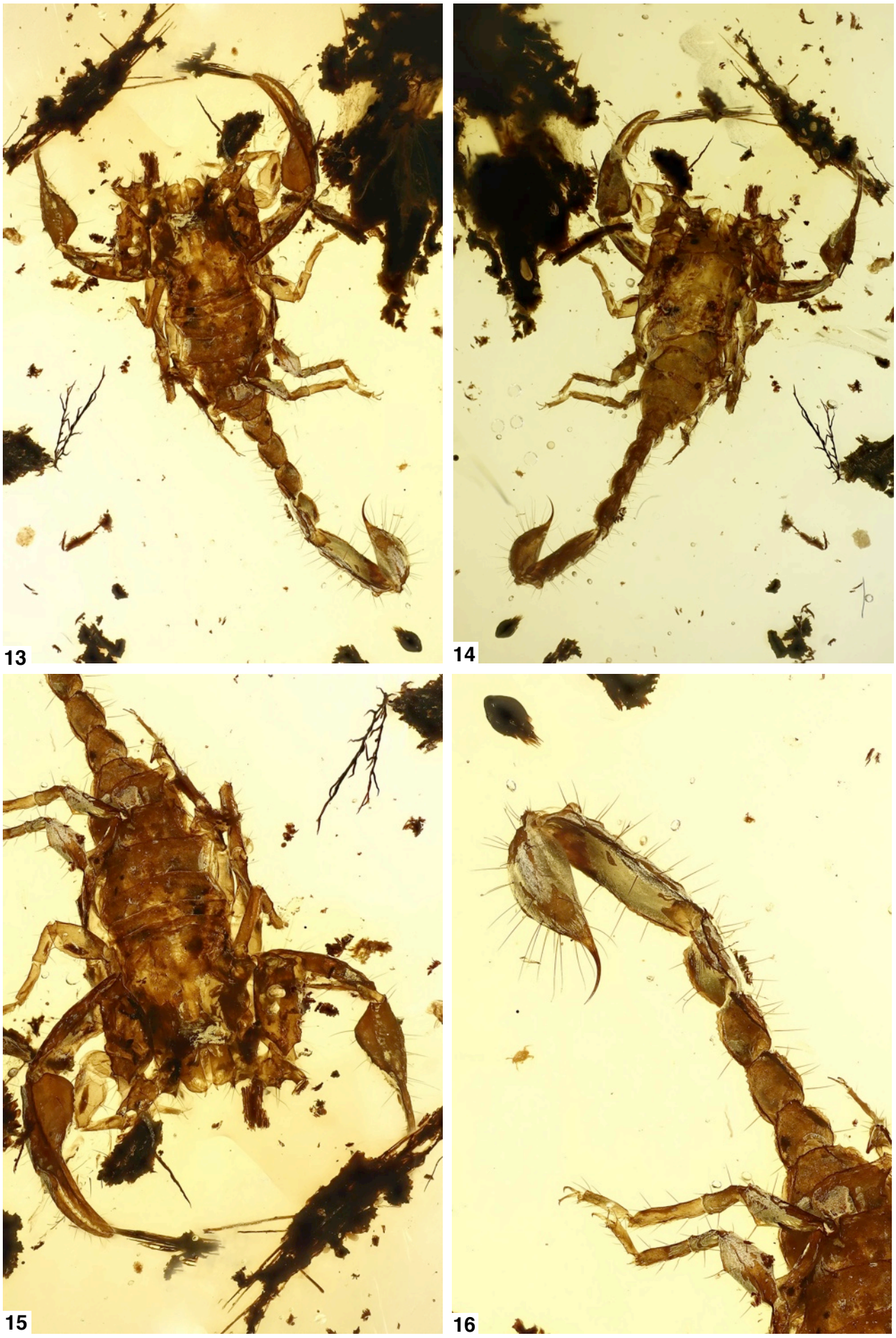

Fig. **13-16**. *Chaerilobuthus muelleri* Lourenço **sp**. **n**. Male holotype.

13-14. Habitus, dorsal and ventral aspects. **15**. Carapace and pedipalps, in detail, dorsal aspect. **16**. Metasoma and telson, in detail, dorso-lateral aspect.

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Authors contribution [1]

Publisher Correspondence. – WL
Writing the article. – WL
Description. – WL
Article proofreading. – WL
Bibliographic work. – WL
Material study. – WL & JV
Author of the figures. – WL (Fig. 1-9)

[1] **WL** = Wilson R. Lourenço – **JV** = Jürgen Velten

Résumé

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2026. – Nouvelles considérations sur la remarquable variabilité du genre *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Scorpiones : Chaerilobuthidae) et description d'une nouvelle espèce de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur de Myanmar. *Faunitaxys*, 14(11): 1 – 6.

Une nouvelle espèce de scorpion fossile appartenant au genre *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011, est décrite de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur du Myanmar. *Chaerilobuthus muelleri* Lourenço **sp**. **n**. représente la quinzième espèce connue pour ce genre, confirmant ainsi la grande richesse spécifique de ce groupe. La nouvelle espèce présente plusieurs caractères nettement distincts lorsque comparée aux espèces préalablement connues, confirmant ainsi l'existence d'une importante variabilité morphologique au sein du genre *Chaerilobuthus*. Une liste des espèces connues est présentée, ainsi que de nombreux commentaires sur la variabilité des caractères morphologiques.

Mots-clés. – Scorpiones, *Chaerilobuthus*, *muelleri*, fossile, taxonomie, description, nouvelle espèce, variabilité, Ambre Birman.

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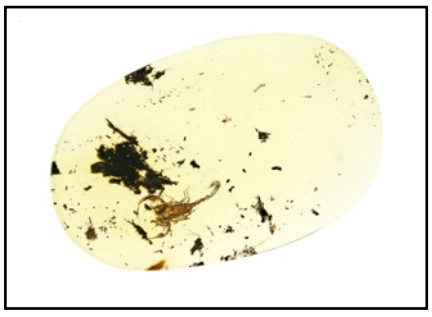

Illustration de la couverture :

Chaerilobuthus muelleri Lourenço **sp**. **n**., in the stone. Habitus, dorsal aspect.

Crédits:

Wilson R. **Lourenço** : Fig. 1-12.

Alexander Beigel : Fig. 13-16 & couverture.

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